certain specific schemes for production of the 3 varieties of silk, namely, Tasar, Eri and Mulberry. Some of the important projects implemented during the last 5 years are indicated below:

1. Intensive Sericulture Development Project was implemented in Ganjam District (1987-88 to 1994-95) at a total cost of Rs. 45.44 crores.
2. Under the national Sericulture Project, (1989—1996) a pilot project was implemented in Koraput District for development of mulberry sericulture.
3. Inter State Tasar Project (1981-82 — 1992-93) was implemented with the assistance from Swiss Development Cooperation for improving the technological base of the Tasar sector.

In addition, through its network of R&D/research extension units assistance is provided to the State Government like seed production and multiplication and financial support towards purchase of Tasar cocoon. Assistance under the Catalytic Development Programme is also available like upgradation of machinery for production of quality silk, incentive for promotion of quality silk and use of multiend reeling machine. Till date 17 such Catalytic Micro projects have been approved for implementation in Orissa at a cost of Rs. 3.17 crores of which CSB component is Rs. 1.94 crores.

(d) Details of the districts in Orissa where sericulture is mainly practised is given below:

Mulberry	Tasar	Eri
Koraput	Mayurbanjh	Cuttack
Phulbani	Sundergarh	Sundergarh
Keonjhar	Keonjhar	
Gajapati	Sambalpur	
Kalahandi		
Nayagarh		
Mayurbanjh		
Rayagada		
Deogarh		

Financial Assistance to Powerloom, Handloom and Handicrafts Units of Assam

2628. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of powerloom, handloom and handicrafts units functioning at present in the different parts of the country particularly in the State of Assam and the employees engaged in each of them;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the units are running in losses;

(c) if so, the details thereof, unit-wise and reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to give some financial assistance and other incentives to revive these units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) As per information available there are about 15 lakh powerloom units in the country employing persons many times of this number. As per Census of Handloom conducted in 1987-88, the number of house holds and non-household units engaged in handloom weaving were 30.6 lakh and 0.24 lakh respectively and the number of household members engaged in weaving activity and preparatory work were 43.7 lakh and 21.5 lakh respectively.

Employment in handicrafts sector is estimated to be over 76 lakh in the year 1997-98.

The details in respect of Assam are as follows:—

Total NO. of powerlooms — 2,726

Estimated No. of persons employed — 13,630.

(i) Handloom Weaving:

No. of Household units — 1223956

No. of Non-household units — 680.

Household Members:

(ii) (a) Weaving Activity — 1716440
(b) Preparatory Work — 280313.

(b) and (c) No specific report has been received about any powerloom units running in loss. Handlooms and Handicrafts being in decentralised sector, such data are not maintained.

(d) In respect of powerlooms, Government has been implementing schemes such as setting up of Powerloom Service Centres, upgradation of the same, Computer Aided Design Centres, Insurance Schemes for Powerloom Workers, etc.

Major Schemes for handloom development include Project Package Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Health Package Schemes, Group Insurance Schemes, Thrift Fund Schemes and Mill Gate Price Scheme. Several Schemes are also implemented for development of handicrafts including Departmentally Run Training Centres, Apprenticeship Training Scheme, Assistance to Central/State Handicrafts Corporations and Apex Societies, Training of Trainers, Schemes for Revival of Languishing Crafts and other social security schemes.

Development of Handicrafts in Assam

2629. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government for promotion and development of handicrafts in Assam; and

(b) the funds allocated and provided for upgradation of skills of traditional artisans and craftsmen during 1998-99, District-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The details of steps taken by the Government for promotion, development of handicrafts in the country including in the State of Assam include: training; setting up of crafts development centres; opening of new emporia and renovation/ expansion of existing exporia; exhibition and publicity; workshed-cum-housing etc.

(b) A sum of Rs. 28.61 lakhs has been sanctioned to the State of Assam during 1998-99, till date, for upgradation of skills of artisans and crftsmen District-wise data is not maintained.

Jute Manufactured Items

2630. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the jute manaufactured items despite increasing demands in foreign countries are affected adversely due to lack of support from Government;

(b) whether Government agencies which are concerned about export growth are mostly failing to explore proper avenues for increasing the export output;

(c) the details of agencies working at present for directing the export to be augmented, their locations, turnover with information and the assistance rendered during the past three years;

(d) whether any further steps are taken to save the industry manufacturing jute and jute made items; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has provided consistent and adequate support to Jute Manufactures Development Council (JMDC), a statutory body under Ministry of Textiles set up for monitoring the growth of export of jute products in the